OVAL GLOOM AS WYCOMBE RECEIVE A THRASHING

By Argus

Corinthian Casuals 4, Wycombe Wanderers 0

KENNINGTON Oval was a grey, unfriendly place on Saturday afternoon. Even the pigeons seemed to be hugging shelter and the chill wind which swept the ground froze and deadened Wycombe hopes with every passing second. The Wanderers played like men doomed to defeat and defeated they were—convincingly—by a bold, dashing Casuals team which played with the spirit of the Corinthians of old.

The Casuals, in their many-shaded shorts, were steel-tough commandos who roared after the ball, tore into the tackle like young Samsons, hooted for sheer joy and kept up a running siege of the Wycombe goal.

They made Wanderers look slow and leisurely and often without hope.

FLATTERED

To concede only two goals in each half rather flattered Wycombe, and Dennis Syrett's many brave and splendid saves were the principal reason why they kept the score down to four. John Beck's courageous performance against international wingman Pat Neil was Wycombe's only other consolation.

The entire Wanderers team had a nightmare game. With tough redhead Reg Vowells robbing Paul Bates at almost every tackle and Len Worley in the clutches of that very fine full back Dereck Newton, the attack spluttered along and was never a continuous threat.

Wanderers fans had to pinch themselves to remember that so far this season their team has easily out-shot their Isthmian rivals, scoring an average of three goals per game. The line was so ineffective on Saturday that Johnny Weaver was sent to centre-forward in the second half in a vain attempt to find some zip.

Just as unhappy was the Wycombe defence. Those Oval horrors Tony Lock and Jim Laker, operating on a turning wicket, could hardly have caused more confusion than the Corinthians, who were bang in form.

With two alert wing-halves searching out the gaps Casuals found plenty of time to move with the ball and no one enjoyed himself more than Essex cricket skipper Doug Insole whose passing was immaculate, or impetuous Robin Trimby who scored two remarkable solo goals

The Casuals showed far more enterprise and dash in attack than did Wycombe and were never loath to try the unorthodox. Unable to control home centre-forward Dick Joyce, John Fisher had a frustrating afternoon despite the terrific amount of energy he burned up chasing for the ball.

TWO GOALS' LEAD

Hardly had the Wanderers arrived on the scene, after the long trek from the pavilion dressing rooms, than they were so nearly a goal down. The busy Jacobs miskicked badly clear of an inviting goal but Casuals easily shrugged off this setback and by speedy football, in which the ball was moved long distances across the long turf, established a two goals' lead through Insole and Trimby.

The Wycombe defence was ominously uncertain and Dennis Syrett was almost continually in action.

Caught in possession far too often, the Wanderers' forwards could rarely threaten goalkeeper Wakefield. Worley, the one big hope, was virtually tackled out of the game, and it was Free who initiated the one penetrating first-half attack.

From his centre, Ron Fryer lobbed the ball on to the cross-bar and then, unaccountably, turned the rebound wide.

RACED UPFIELD

The sight of John Beck racing upfield from his full-back beat to beat a man and rocket a shot goalwards, for Wakefield to parry cleverly, provided just about the only cheer that Wanderers could muster.

Wycombe gloom continued throughout the second half as Casuals pressed vigorously for more goals. A penalty appeal was turned down and chances went abegging before Trimby burst right through the defence for the third goal and Neil sent a grasscutter snaking into the net from Insole's free kick.

There was never a chance of Wycombe getting their teeth into the game and never a whisper of a determined fight back.